

BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2005

A special meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, April 11, 2005, in the Mt. Hope High School Library, 199 Chestnut Street, Bristol, RI. Marjorie J. McBride, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at approximately 5:03 p.m.

Present: Marjorie J. McBride, William A. Estrella, Jr., William M. O'Dell, Thomas E. Skuba, Timothy L. Avila, Joyce M. Kinsella, John P. Saviano, Paul Silva (arrived 5:21 p.m.) and Beverly Z. Travers; and Edward P. Mara, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools; Donna Bettencourt-Glavin, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Grants; Jane F. Correia, Director of Administration and Finance; and Leslie A. Neubauer, Director of Pupil Personnel Services

Absent: none

All present were invited to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mrs. McBride reported correspondence received and filed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION

As a courtesy to the presenters Mrs. McBride addressed the Superintendent's Recommendations out of numerical order.

Recommendation #2005-13: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Social Expectations section of Mt. Hope High School Mission Statement.

Mr. Estrella motioned to approve; Mr. Skuba seconded. Mrs. Kinsella, Mr. Saviano and Ms. Travers were concerned that there is not defined criteria, adherence is immeasurable, and teacher interpretation can vary—a potential for parental complaints; Mrs. Kinsella suggested the recommendation be approved with the contingency that criteria be developed and returned to the Committee for final approval. Dr. Mara pointed out that the Code of Discipline is quite clear on these issues. Mr. Estrella suggested approval and instructing the Chair to report updates to the Committee. Mr. Saviano seconded. Mr. Skuba agreed and felt implementation should be left up to high school administration; problems can be addressed by the Committee as they arise. Mr. O'Dell did not favor an amendment, feels they should be given the opportunity to do their jobs, likes the expectations as it stands now and thanked the mission team for reviewing the section and the wonderful job they did. Jaime Crowley of the Mission Team assured the Committee that nothing is set in stone, if it needs adjustment, it will be done but they are ready to go forward. Mr. Estrella moved the motion.

On a show of hands, the motion to amend failed by a vote of 1 to 7

with Mrs. Kinsella voting yea.

On a show of hands, the motion to approve recommendation 2005-13 passed by a vote of 8 to 0.

Mr. Silva joined the meeting at 5:21 PM.

Recommendation #2005-12: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the 2005-2006 Mt. Hope High School Program of Studies.

Mr. Estrella, seconded by Mr. Skuba, motioned to approve. In response to Ms. Travers, Dr. Mara explained that this program of studies does not increase staffing needs; due to budget constraints block scheduling is not possible; classes that are not fully subscribed will not run; similar, low-enrolled classes may combine; and Personal Literacy Plans, which are teacher-driven, will be in effect for 9th and 10th graders in September of 2005. Ms. Travers felt it was highly inappropriate to receive the program of studies for approval at this time without much time to review. Dr. Mara explained that delays were caused by graduation requirements and budget information being received only recently. Mrs. McBride appreciated inclusion of the alternative courses. Mr. O'Dell commented that the Basic American Literature course description oddly mentioned very general categories yet specific perspectives.

On a show of hands, the motion passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

Recommendation #2005-11: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the Sick Bank agreement with the Bristol Warren Education Association.

Mr. Estrella motioned to approve; Ms. Travers seconded. In response to Mr. Saviano, Dr. Mara said the agreements from several other districts were examined to develop ours.

On a show of hands, the motion was approved by a vote of 9 to 0.

Recommendation #2005-10: That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the architectural plans for the Colt Andrews School bond project.

Joseph daSilva, architect for the Mt. Vernon Group, presented the proposed plans for the project as well as a model of Colt and the addition. They are working with town officials to create more parking spaces, playground space will be increase from 10,000 to 13,0000 sq.ft., the addition is architecturally designed after the existing building and is similar in color, and the connector is a humble, low-profile structure connecting the lower level of Colt to the addition. Two or three lunch periods will be run each day so no more than 125 students will be using the play area at one time; play areas are segregated by lower and upper grades and playground equipment is included. The upcoming Building Committee meetings will be devoted to Colt/Andrews and Hugh Cole, alternately, starting this week with Colt/Andrews. Barring major changes or obstacles,

construction will begin in October with occupancy expected in January 2007. Administration has diligently been working on a contingency plan for students. A hearing before the Bristol Historic Commission is scheduled for April 28 at the Burnside Building at approximately 8:50 PM. The Building Committee is very interested in the public's reaction to the plans. Possibilities for more parking spaces were discussed; this is not a major issue. Mr. Estrella and Mr. Silva asked for understanding from the community of the critical problems to be solved by the end of the school year and the displacement of 230 students; delays will be costly. Ms. Travers commented that the plans are an excellent compromise of space and aesthetics of building. Mr. Avila thanked Dennis Gregson and Joseph daSilva for the presentation and expressed confidence in the Building Committee.

On a show of hands, the motion to approve passed by a vote of 9 to 0.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mrs. Kinsella, seconded by Mr. Skuba, moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:04 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

William M. O'Dell, Secretary

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